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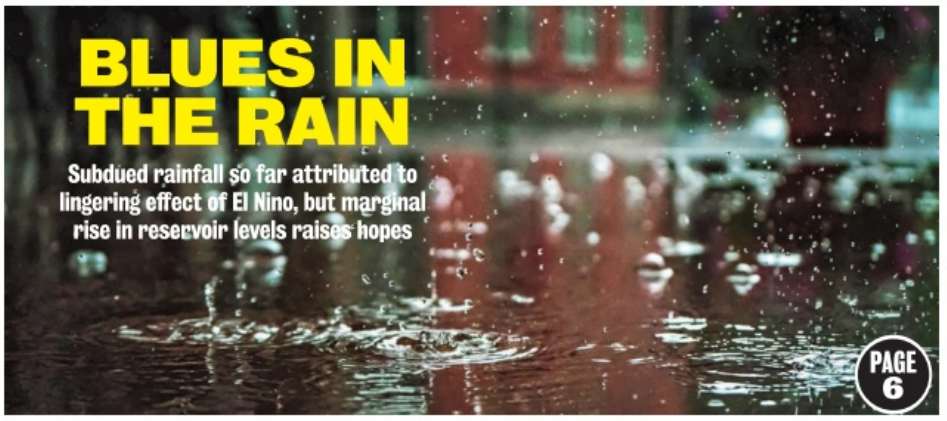
Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 67% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 79,032 | Nifty 24,010 | Gold 71,585 | Silver 87,151 | Dollar 83.36 | Euro 89.37 | GBP 105.45

RED OR GREEN?

Solid waste management experts frown upon govt's plan to allow biodegradable bags without proper disposal plan

PAGE 2



BLUES IN THE RAIN

Subdued rainfall so far attributed to lingering effect of El Nino, but marginal rise in reservoir levels raises hopes

PAGE 6

As stray cattle take over some sections of city's roads, animal activists demand BBMP construct sheds for dairy farmers to use in each ward

HERD MENTALITY

Civic agency says it is already taking measures to keep cows off the road

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Motorists are finding it difficult to commute on some of the roads in the city due to stray cattle. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Animal Husbandry Department has been taking measures to penalise cattle owners for letting cattle wander on the roads, causing inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians.

It is true that a ban on stray cattle roaming on the roads or imposing a penalty of it would affect the livelihood of dairy farmers in the city but motorists and pedestrians are asking that the dairy farmers be responsible and accountable towards the safety of cattle and public as well. "One can see cattle wandering on Promenade Road and Netaji Road and other locations in Frazer Town. Stray cattle spill garbage kept outside of houses and dirty lanes. Traffic jams have become routine due to stray cattle on Haines Road. I have complained to the Nodal Officer of Pulakeshinagar ward but nothing has been done to end this menace," said Ifthikar Ahmed, a resident.

Cattle obstructing movement of vehicles in areas such as Halasuru, Cox Town, Shivajinagar, Indiranagar, Vasanth Nagar and other areas has become a daily affair. "There are around 300 cows roaming on the road between Sarakki and Thalagattapura. Wandering cows have become a danger for pedestrians as well as motorists. I have informed Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth about the menace of stray cattle on Kanakapura Road. He has assured me that he would inform the BBMP authorities to take suitable measures to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

"There are around 300 cows roaming on the road between Sarakki and Thalagattapura. Wandering cows have become a danger for pedestrians as well as motorists

— Krishna Kumar Gowda, citizen

Walking to school, no child's play

No action taken as risk of contracting disease, sustaining injuries, electrocution persist on stretch surveyed

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

School children using footpaths in Vinobha Nagar are still at high risk of contracting disease, sustaining fatal injuries, and getting electrocuted, according to a survey conducted by a city-based organisation on safety and risk assessment of child pedestrians.

These risks are due to encroachment of walkways, unattended garbage and construction debris, broken slabs, protruding electric wires, haphazardly parked vehicles, and uneven footpath surfaces.

These factors were highlighted in a study done by ActionAid Association in December last year and these concerns were shared with multiple government agencies. However, no action has been taken over the last six months.

"In December 2023, we conducted the study on 80 government schoolchildren from Vinobha Nagar and identified 122 safety concerns for child pedestrians over a nearly 1.3-km stretch of JC Road. The outcome of our study highlighted that a proactive approach by departments concerned

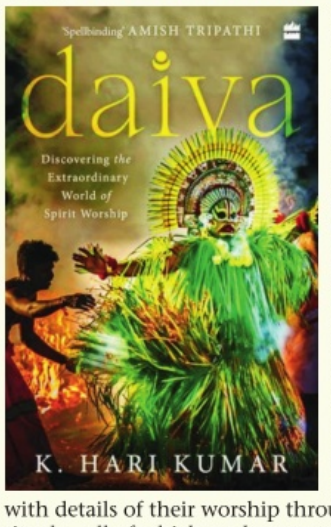
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Lifestyle exhibit

The exclusive sale of handloom, handicraft, jewellery, sarees and dress materials, khadi kurtas, suit pieces, and gifts is live at the 'Grand Rajasthani Exhibition.' The exhibition is all about the use of traditional handloom skills to create contemporary lifestyle products. It brings together rural artisans from the eastern part of India, featuring vast collections of cotton and silk handlooms and handicrafts, Orissa tie and dye, dress materials, West Bengal cotton sarees, home decor items, and many more. **Where: Sri Jyothinandamayi Samudaya Bhavan, MS Palya When: June 30 to July 10, 10 am to 9 pm**

02 Learn about Kola



Have you heard about the famous Kola performances in Tulu Nadu? Did you know there is so much more to it than art and devotion? Come find out in an author interaction session with K Hari Kumar, as in his book 'Daiva,' he brings you stories of powerful immortals along with details of their worship through mystifying rituals—all of which are known to leave onlookers awestruck. **Where: Atta Galatta; When: June 30, 7:30 pm**

03 Art showcase

Indulge in an art exhibit inspired by the Ganga river titled 'Ganga' by Yusuf Arakkal and his son Shibu Arakkal in two starkly contrasting mediums: canvas creations and photographic series. Yusuf's evocative canvas creations and Shibu's photographic series 'Mallaah' capture the profound connection between the boatmen of the Ganga and the river itself. The juxtaposition of their works reflects the intersection of their artistic legacies. **Where: Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation, Lavelle Road; When: Until July 10, 10 am to 6 pm**

Plastic policy revision not all that green, say experts

Experts say amendment would complicate recycling process

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A few months ago, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board urged people not to use single-use plastics disguised as compostable, biodegradable, or oxy-biodegradable items

The Environment Minister's proposal to amend or withdraw Karnataka's Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 to facilitate the manufacturing, stocking, and sale of biodegradable bags has not gone down well with city-based solid waste management (SWM) experts.

They say that while these compostable bags claim to dissolve within six months, these are industry-level compostable plastic materials that require collection and segregation before they can be transported to composting facilities. "Although made up of corn starch or maize, more often than not, they are industrially compostable plastic. They cannot disintegrate in the natural environment and require a robust transportation, segregation, and aggregation mechanism for scientific disposal," said a city-based SWM expert.

Notably, the need for biodegradable products as an alternative to single-use plastic (SUP) bags was highlighted by the Environment Minister on Friday in a meeting with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KPCB). He suggested that KSPCB officials submit a proposal for adopting the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021, by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change which had made use of biodegradable bags legal. Karnataka's Plastic Waste Management Rules of 2016 banned the use of polymer-based biodegradable or compostable and all-thickness carry bags.

Interestingly, a few months ago, KSPCB warned manufacturers, suppliers, transporters, and the general public of penal action if found using biodegradable and oxo-biodegradable plastic items. The Board had urged people not to use SUPs disguised as compostable, biodegradable, or oxy-biodegradable items. "Karnataka was lauded as a state ahead of others for having a more stringent rule around SUPs. Compostable bags, which are permitted in other states, are banned in Karnataka, and the state's more stringent rule superseded the center's. While manufacturers claim that the biodegradable bags are made up of corn starch, this will unnecessarily add to waste volume. Those segregating the waste at collection centres cannot differentiate between regular and biodegradable plastic bags, and thus it will mess up the recycling process too," said Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, a citizen volunteer group.

According to a quick verification test put in place by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), a biodegradable plastic can be distinguished from conventional plastic if a 2x2 cm film sample or a few granules of the plastic dissolve in a dichloromethane (DCM) solution. "Even if we streamline collection and segregation for argument's sake, are the government and KSPCB ready to carry out such verifications regularly? We must acknowledge that KSPCB's lab facilities and resource availability to carry out such tests are limited. Decision-makers must consider all these scenarios before amending or withdrawing the 2016 notification," said another SWM expert.

Centre's support sought for B'luru's mega projects

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With mega projects in the city still in financial trouble, the state has sought the centre's financial support for projects like the tunnel road, waste management, and peripheral ring road project.

In a request to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Siddaramaiah said, "Bengaluru is one of the most traffic-congested cities in the world, which affects the mobility, productivity, and environment of the city. To ease this problem, we propose to construct a 60-km urban tunnel, costing approximately Rs 30,000 crore, which will create an east-west and a north-south corridor within the city, connecting the major arterial roads and bypassing the surface traffic. Since the planned project will connect National Highway-7 with NH4, it can be taken up by the Karnataka government in collaboration with the National Highways Authority of India, and the requisite funds may kindly be allocated to both authorities from the central budget."

The CM further requested the centre's support in allocating funds for the long-delayed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project, stating, "The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) intends to implement the PRR project, a 73.04 km long 8-lane road with 100 m right of way, on a public-private partnership (PPP) model. The estimated total project cost is Rs 27,000 crore. In addition to generating significant toll revenues, it is also expected to generate additional revenue streams from impact fees, betterment

fees, wayside amenities, advertisements, etc."

Speaking on the challenges of urban solid waste management, he added that Bengaluru generates nearly 5,500 metric tonnes of waste per day, which needs to be collected, transported, and processed scientifically. "The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is managing waste processing in its eight wet waste centralised plants and a few decentralised plants. However, there is a shortage of waste processing facilities due to the non-availability of land within the city. To address the problem for the next 25 to 30 years, depending on the annual growth rate, BBMP has prepared a comprehensive plan to set up an integrated waste management facility at four corners of the Urban District area by identifying around 100 acres of land at each corner. Therefore, to keep the tipping fee on the lower side and lessen the burden on BBMP, we request a 30 per cent project cost (Rs. 960 crore) support from viability gap funding available for PPP projects for SWM under the provision of Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 guidelines." Now, it needs to be seen whether the PM makes any specific allocation for BBMP projects in the upcoming Central budget.

FSL teams to get modern equipment to crack cases

CM seeks central support for advanced equipment, new police stations, and emergency vehicle exemptions

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Amid rising crime rates and low detection rates, the Karnataka government is seeking to upgrade its investigation processes. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has reached out to Union Home Minister Amit Shah for additional support in acquiring advanced forensic equipment. In his letter, the Chief Minister highlighted an action plan worth Rs. 72 crore, submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs on December 27, 2023, which is still awaiting approval. The proposal aims to procure machinery and equipment for various forensic sections, including firearms, computer forensics, biology, DNA, photography, toxicology, audio-video forensics, mobile forensics, chemistry, narcotics, and mobile FSL vans with kits. "The Central Government has already approved Rs. 7 crore, with 25% of this amount released in the first installment. A Utilization Certificate for these funds has been submitted, and further proposals for releasing the remaining amount are pending with the MHA. The requested equipment includes a Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer, High-Performance Thin Layer Chromatography, UV Spectrometer, FTIR with narcotic analyzer, micropipette set with stand, hot air oven, heating mantles, dispense set, glassware and plasticware, and digital weighing balance," the CM said.

Central grant for body-worn cameras

Siddaramaiah has stressed the importance of body-worn cameras for police officers, stating that these devices capture both audio and video evidence during incidents such as bandobast, VIP/VVIP duties, and traffic offenses. "Body-worn camera footage helps reinforce proper policing practices and protects police against false accusations. The use of body-worn cameras has been made mandatory for officers with arrest power," he said. The state currently requires 60,000 body-worn cameras. So far, 1,454 cameras have been purchased at a cost of Rs. 4.60 crore during 2023-24. To meet the remaining requirement of 58,546 cameras, the state has requested a grant of Rs. 100 crore from the Centre in the first phase of 2024-25 to purchase 28,572 cameras, with a total requirement of Rs. 175 crore.

A policeman using body worn camera (file photo)

Nirbhaya fund

To address urban safety issues and combat crime in Bengaluru, the Karnataka government has launched the Safe City Project under the Nirbhaya Fund, with an allocation of Rs. 655 crore. "The project components include CCTV surveillance, GIS crime mapping, safety islands, setting up a command and control center, integrated support centers for women and children, women's help desks in police stations, Critical Care Response Units (CCRU) at eight hospitals, women police outposts, an awareness campaign in collaboration with NIMHANS, NLSIU, and MC&A, Rani Chennamma vehicle procurement, forensic vans and SOCO kits, and impact assessment. Similar Safe City Projects are proposed for Mysuru, Hubli-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Belagavi, and Kalaburagi, each costing Rs 200 crore, totaling Rs 1,000 crore. These initiatives aim to enhance urban safety and ensure a secure environment for the residents of Karnataka's major cities," the CM said.

Appeal for vehicle exemption

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has raised concerns about the condition of special vehicles used for emergency services. Many of these vehicles have been taken off the road as they are older than 15 years, jeopardizing the department's functionality. The Karnataka government has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways requesting an exemption for these vehicles and issuing a fitness certificate for an additional five years. Siddaramaiah urged the Ministry of Road Transport to respond favorably to this request.

Prajwal Revanna remanded to judicial custody until July 8

MP Prajwal Revanna was remanded to judicial custody until July 8 by an Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court on June 29. Revanna, the primary suspect in a sex video scandal, was presented in court by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) after his police custody ended. Despite his counsel's request for transfer to a private hospital due to illness, the court directed them to seek approval from jail authorities.

This development follows the SIT's custody of Prajwal in connection with the fourth sexual assault case against him

The court indicated that if jail authorities consent, the matter would be addressed on Monday. Meanwhile, Revanna will be transferred to the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara near Bengaluru. This development follows the SIT's custody of Prajwal in connection with the fourth sexual assault case against him.

Prajwal's brother, JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, has also been detained and is under investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for alleged forceful unnatural sex involving JD(S) male workers. Their father, JD(S) MLA HD Revanna, was recently released on conditional bail after being jailed, while their mother, Bhavani Revanna, is also out on conditional bail related to a kidnapping case associated with the scandal.

Kothanur Lake's beauty fades; locals seek action

Water body's health declines due to sewage, plastic pollution, and lack of maintenance. Residents fight for its revival by urging action from authorities

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A file photo showing a water body contaminated with plastic

Residents surrounding Kothanur Lake have expressed significant concerns regarding various issues impacting the lake. They have urgently requested a meeting with officials from the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). The meeting, held at Kothanur Lake, was attended by representatives from BWSSB and BBMP but notably lacked participation from local ward officials.

During the meeting, the residents raised several pressing issues, including concerns about sewage inflow, the necessity for installing gates, and the urgency of appointing a security guard at Kothanur Lake. Developed and entrusted to BBMP, the lake boasts rich vegetation and plays a crucial role as a vital water catchment area. It efficiently gathers rainwater from local drains, although this also results in any plastic waste discarded into the drains ultimately finding its way into the lake.

The lake includes a suspension pond designed to offer initial protection by capturing soil and mud, thereby preventing them from entering the main lake body. Despite the effectiveness of the suspension pond in managing minor sewage inflows, larger volumes of sewage continue to reach the lake, raising significant environmental concerns. While BWSSB promptly responds to complaints and addresses sewage problems, a lasting solution to mitigate these issues has yet to be implemented.

During the recent inspection of the lake, members of the resident welfare association expressed their frustration regarding the persistent sewage issue. Raghavendra Pacchapur, a resident, commented, "The problem is that there are many apartments nearby that are discharging sewage into the lake. However, the officials are not able to track which apartments are responsible for it, and it remains a mystery. A permanent solution to resolve this issue has not been implemented yet. In the past two years, four fish have died. Water samples have been collected, and we await the test results."

> **"Many apartments nearby are discharging sewage into the lake. The officials are unable to track the source**
> – Raghavendra P, resident

In addition to sewage concerns, residents complained about plastic waste and the poor condition of the walkways around the lake. The lack of proper maintenance and infrastructure has diminished the lake's accessibility and enjoyment for visitors. Despite these issues, the lake continues to attract large numbers of people who appreciate its natural beauty. The residents have urged the officials to take immediate action to install gates and appoint a security guard to prevent further degradation of the lake. They also stressed the importance of conducting a comprehensive investigation to identify the sources of sewage and implement a permanent solution.

Run, recycle, repeat: Marathon leaves no trace behind

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Left: Cutlery used for serving breakfast at the marathon event orgnaised by Runaddicts; Above: The minimum quantity of organic waste generated at the event organised by Runaddicts

Around 250 environmentalists have teamed up to ensure that a marathon event, despite serving breakfast to thousands of participants, leaves no dry waste behind. The 6th annual run, organised by Runaddicts of Rajarajeshwari Nagar on Sunday, saw participation from over 3,500 people. The program's uniqueness lies in producing no dry waste and using the proceeds to supply sports kits, notebooks, and school bags to rural students. Organisers sourced cutlery from the Adamya Chetana Foundation to avoid using paper plates when serving breakfast to marathon participants.

With support from iCare RR Nagar and RISE Foundation, the organisers ensured there were no disposables or single-use plastics at the event. They provided utensils and cutlery for all attendees, including at water stations, and facilitated composting of all organic waste. "We have been organising marathon events for the last six years. The marathon is divided into three categories; 3 km, 5 km, and 10 km. We have used the proceeds to provide 30,000 notebooks, 2,000 school bags and sports equipment for the benefit of students of 50 government schools in rural areas," said Vishveshwara CR of Runaddicts.

Vishveshwara mentioned that the cutlery had been obtained from the Adamya Chetana Foundation. "Volunteers placed the cutlery in designated areas. Participants enjoyed breakfast, after which the cutlery was washed, dried, neatly packed, and returned to Adamya Chetana Foundation, " he said. Malini GR, a volunteer, expressed happiness about participating in an event that generated no dry waste. "All the volunteers were very happy to help the organisers of the event because all of our objectives are the same; making events zero dry waste," said Malini.

Shobha Bhat from Usiru Foundation has praised the organisers for ensuring no dry waste, suggesting that the state government and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) should host similar events to minimise dry waste generation. "There will be no workload for pourakarmikas if marathon events generate no waste. If everyone follows it, the generation of waste in the city will come down drastically and reduce the burden on the landfills. I want politicians and the authorities to organise events in such a way to prevent generating dry waste," she said.

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Unfixed pothole
Ramamurthy Nagar

A pothole caused by road digging by a private internet service provider has been left unrepaired on 3rd Main Road in Ramamurthy Nagar.

Footpath invasion
Seegehalli

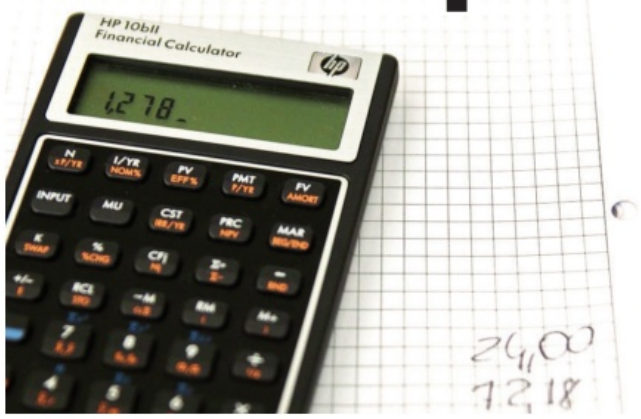
The newly constructed footpath on Whitefield Main Road at Seegehalli is occupied by street vendors. Authorities need to take action to remove the encroachments.

Cable risk
Richmond Road

Dangling cables on Richmond Road, outside the Fortune Hotel, pose a danger to pedestrians and vehicles. Prompt attention is needed to address this safety hazard.

EPFO discontinues GIS deductions, to refund past deductions

Find out which government employees to get higher salary and other details



The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has decided to discontinue the deductions under the Group Insurance Scheme (GIS) with immediate effect for government employees who joined service after September 1, 2013.

"It is directed to discontinue the deductions under GIS wherever being made from the salaries of all employees who joined EPFO after 01.09.2013 immediately," said EPFO in a circular dated June 21, 2024.

All government employees are not impacted by this decision. The impact of this circular is restricted to those government employees who joined the service after September 1, 2013.

According to Akhil Chandna, Partner, Grant Thornton Bharat, a tax and business consultancy company, "Employees who joined EPFO after 01 September 2013 would not be covered under the GIS anymore and any deduction already made from their salaries would be refunded to them."

Government employees who are affected will receive a windfall gain and increased salary

Experts say that net in-hand salary may increase for government employees for whom GIS is discontinued.

"The discontinuation of deductions under GIS will indeed increase the take-home salaries. Previously, the deductions were made from employees' monthly salaries as per their pay-scales to fund the GIS. With this scheme no longer in effect for these specified employees, the deductions will stop, and they will receive higher net-in-hand salary," Chandna says.

While the net-in-hand salary may increase, the exact amount is still unknown, and it is uncertain whether it will significantly affect your salary.

"Without the deduction for GIS, the take home salary will increase for the specified employees. However, the proof of the pudding is in eating it and time will tell whether the monthly deductions which are a small percentage of salary each month and finally amounting to a large lump sum through the years at the time of retirement, would make any significant difference to the monthly take home salary of eligible employees," says Jasmine Damkewala, Senior Partner at Circle of Counsels (Law Firm).

In addition to the increase in salary, these employees will also receive a lump sum amount in lieu of the deductions made after September 1, 2013, or joining, whichever is earlier. "Further the deductions done till now in respect of such cases are to be refunded back to the employees," the EPFO circular said.

The GIS is a social welfare scheme under the Employees Provident Fund Organization being run under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India to ensure ease of living for members and pensioners

What is the GIS scheme by EPFO and what are the benefits it offers?

The Central Government Group Insurance Scheme (GIS) came into force on January 1, 1982, under the name Central Government Employees' Group Insurance Scheme 1980.

According to Damkewala, "The GIS is a social welfare scheme under the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) being run under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India to ensure ease of living for members and pensioners under a social security system tailored to provide socio-economic protection to workers and their dependants in case of mishaps. The scheme encompasses twin purposes, namely, (a) insurance; and (b) savings."

Who are not eligible for GIS?

According to Damkewala, contract employees, casual labourers, part-time and ad-hoc employees, persons recruited in the Central Government after attaining the age of 50 years or persons on deputation from State Government Public Sector Undertakings or other autonomous organisations locally recruited staff in the missions abroad are not covered by the GIS scheme.

Has the GIS scheme been discontinued?

Experts say that it cannot be said that the GIS scheme itself has been discontinued as the notification dated June 21, 2024 mentions only about the discontinuance of deductions under GIS scheme for specified employees.

By Neelanjit Das, ET Online

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THE SUNDAY READ

State of rain

Weather experts blame lingering El Niño effects for subdued rainfall; reservoir levels rise marginally, offering hope to farmers

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There were talks of 'bumper' monsoon this time due to the waning of El Nino and arrival of La Nina but it hasn't been the case so far due to not so 'good' rainfall till date. Weather experts say that this is because of the El Nino 'hangover' phase. This year's monsoon was predicted to be bumper due to the waning of the El-Nino phase. However, experts say that despite the waning of El-Nino, the current phase can be termed as a 'hangover' phase. An update from SkyMet, a private weather forecaster said, "The El Niño event is ending as the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) is likely to drop below the threshold mark of 0.5°C. The ONI, based on the sea surface temperature (SST) departure from average in the Niño 3.4 region, is a key measure for monitoring, assessing, and predicting ENSO. For the quarter March-April-May, the ONI was 0.7°C. SSTs in the Niño 3.4 region have dropped to nearly zero degrees for three weeks in June. The ONI for the quarter April-May-June is likely to be around 0.45°C, slightly below the threshold mark. This indicates that El Niño has ended and ENSO neutral conditions have commenced. However, as seen in the past, the El Niño hangover phase persists for a few weeks after its devolution, affecting global weather patterns, including the Indian monsoon."

The report further added that the southwest monsoon has wavered substantially in the opening month of June. The countrywide rainfall deficiency climbed to 19 per cent but has now marginally recovered to 14 per cent as of June 28, 2024. The monsoon current is expected to pick up pace and may cover the entire country ahead of its schedule for the second consecutive year. The core monsoon months of July and August need to perform well to counter the setback of June. La Niña is evolving late in the season, at best in the second half of the monsoon. The Indian Ocean Dipole is unlikely to collaborate constructively with La Niña. Without the solid support of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), the chances of a bumper monsoon remain uncertain.

Inflows increase in KRS

Despite the monsoon not being so vigorous this year, the recent spate of rainfall has slightly increased the inflows to the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir. The inflows have risen to 18,644 cubic feet per second (cusecs), marking a notable increase from the 2,241 cusecs recorded just days earlier. As a result, the reservoir's water level has climbed to 92.80 feet as against its full reservoir level (FRL) of 124.80 feet.

The current reservoir storage capacity stands at 17.676 TMC feet of water as against maximum capacity of 49.45 TMC and last year during June last, the reservoir had just 11 TMC feet of water storage. This increase in water availability is particularly welcomed by farmers who rely on the reservoir's water for irrigation, anticipating improved crop yields. A significant allocation of 7.739 TMC has been earmarked for agricultural purposes, underscoring the critical role of the KRS reservoir in supporting local farming communities. Additionally, 3.978 TMC is allocated for drinking water purposes, ensuring essential water supply to urban areas.

June month monsoon analysis

This year's anticipated bumper monsoon in India hasn't materialized as expected, despite the waning of the El Niño weather pattern and the emergence of La Niña conditions. Experts attribute this to what they term as an "El Niño hangover phase." SkyMet, a private weather forecaster, reported that the El Niño event is concluding, with the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) dropping below the critical threshold of 0.5°C. Despite this, sea surface temperatures in the Niño 3.4 region hovered close to zero degrees Celsius for three consecutive weeks in June.

The ONI for the quarter April-May-June is projected to be approximately 0.45°C, slightly below the threshold, signaling a transition to ENSO neutral conditions.

However, historical patterns indicate that even after El Niño ends, its residual effects can linger for several weeks, influencing global weather patterns including the Indian monsoon. This phenomenon has resulted in suboptimal rainfall so far this monsoon season, contrary to initial expectations of abundant precipitation due to the weakening El Niño and onset of La Niña.

While the El Niño phase is officially ending, its hangover effect persists, posing ongoing challenges for accurate weather predictions and agricultural planning in the affected regions.

"From June 1 to June 4, the monsoon commenced with thunderstorm activity across the State. From June 5 to June 12, an upper UAC system developed over North Karnataka and parts of Southern Maharashtra – Namma Karnataka Weather

Social media proves cops' helper to nab offenders

It took the Bengaluru Traffic Police less than two days to catch a person and seize a vehicle involved in a road rage incident after the victim shared his experience on social media. A resident, Pratham Shetty, took to social media on June 26 and tagged the Bengaluru Traffic Police, stating that he had been a victim of a road rage incident on the Hebbal Flyover. After his tweet gained traction on social media, the DCP Traffic North initiated an inquiry and, on June 28, reported that the accused had been caught and booked under 283 IPC.

The incident isn't an isolated one, as Bengaluru residents have been using social media to keep the cops alert. Whether it's a person wheeling on the road or someone driving on the wrong side, residents share their pictures on social media and tag the police. The city and traffic police have also been keeping a sharp eye on social media, as it has become an easy and accessible tool to report crime.

"We leverage social media to address road rage and wheeling incidents effectively. Our team promptly handles complaints, books cases, and imposes preventive measures, including license cancellations. For minors involved in wheeling, we hold parents accountable. Social media plays a crucial role in our efforts, allowing us to respond swiftly and encouraging the public to report more violations," a senior traffic police officer told BM.

Residents say that while earlier it was a big task to go to the police station and report an incident, now, thanks to the accessibility of the internet and social media, it isn't a hassle anymore.

"It's not like two years ago I wasn't witnessing wheeling or teenagers performing stunts on the road. But the whole idea of going to the traffic cop and registering a complaint seemed like too much work. A while back, I started noticing that people tag officials on social media and immediately receive a reply. So I tried it multiple times; there were teenagers in my locality who would overspeed and create trouble. So I posted about them on X, and the traffic cops reached out to me and later took action. After that, whenever I see people breaking rules or overspeeding, I click a picture and put it on social media," said a resident.

Another resident, Dave, added, "In Bengaluru, where road rage incidents are increasingly common, one in five cars is now equipped with dash cameras to capture evidence. Citizens are actively sharing this footage on social media, aiding the authorities in addressing road safety concerns. Alok Kumar, the Additional Director General of Police for Traffic and Road Safety, known for his responsiveness on social media, promptly directs the Traffic Department to take swift action, as demonstrated in the recent Hebbal Flyover incident. The violator's vehicle was seized within hours, showcasing the power of social media."

BCU confers honorary doctorate to GR Vishwanath & MR Jayaram

During its third convocation on Saturday, Bengaluru City University awarded honorary doctorates to former cricketer GR Viswanath and Gokula Education Foundation Chairman MR Jayaram. Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot presented the honors, with Higher Education Minister Dr. MC Sudhakar, AICTE Chairman Prof TG Sitharam, University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Lingaraja Gandhi, Registrar Javarayegowda, and other guests in attendance.

Gandhi stated, "Bengaluru City University now includes 238 colleges and has significantly expanded its academic offerings and facilities. Initially, the university had only eight postgraduate departments, but now it boasts over 20. Two years ago, we established the Constituent College for Women, adding to our diverse range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Our campus currently hosts 4,000 teachers. Recently, we introduced new courses in technology, environmental climate change, artificial intelligence, special learning, data analytics, and data science to meet the evolving needs of society and students."

The convocation ceremony

The Vice-Chancellor added, "Our history dates back to 1858 when a Central School was established, later becoming Central College University in 1872. It has since grown into a prominent institution offering courses in science, commerce, arts, performing arts, and more. Initially part of Bangalore University, it was later integrated into Bengaluru City University. The university currently serves 35,912 students, with 20,000 set to receive their degrees at the convocation. Additionally, four students have qualified to pursue PhDs." **-Hamsini C**

Speak English like a pro

BU to set up language lab specifically tailored for students from rural areas

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Bangalore University (BU) has launched a new initiative named 'Sankalp' in collaboration with Karnataka Skill Development Corporation and the Academy for Computer Training. This programme is aimed at providing English language training specifically tailored for students from rural areas. The program is designed to benefit all students enrolled at Bangalore University, with a particular focus on those from rural backgrounds. In its initial phase, the university plans to train a minimum of 1,000 students.

Dr. N Malarkodi, Coordinator of the English Language Training Program said, "Addressing the communication skills gap among university students is crucial to unlocking job opportunities. This program aims to fill that void by offering comprehensive training in communication, industrial skills, and more. It is designed to equip students with the readiness needed for the industry and to carve out their future." The training sessions will be conducted by experienced instructors and will incorporate interactive activities such as group discussions and presentations.

The program offers 80 hours of intensive training focused on enhancing communication skills in English. It aims to equip students with the necessary abilities to excel in both academic and professional environments.

The training covers speaking, writing, listening, and reading skills comprehensively, enabling students to communicate effectively in English. Beyond language proficiency, the program aims to boost students' confidence in using English in various aspects of their personal and professional lives.

"The program aims to enhance students' confidence and skills significantly. Upon completion, students will receive a certificate that enhances their career prospects. The curriculum includes training in communication skills, quest alliance skills, industrial training, and career guidance, aimed at fostering personal development and preparing students for the industry. It also covers essential areas such as leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving, crucial for enhancing employability. Students will also benefit from the Career Connect program, offering opportunities to network with industry professionals," said an official.

BU vice-chancellor Dr. SM Jayakar added, "The establishment of this lab specifically targets the skills gap among rural students at our university. It's a pivotal step towards enhancing the overall development of our students."

DR. M.S. RAMAIAH
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Dr. M. R. Jayaram
for being conferred with an Honorary Doctorate
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HC scraps cancellation of registration of Centre for Wildlife Studies

Personal hearing must have been afforded for petitioner, states order

The Karnataka High Court has annulled orders issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) that led to the cancellation of registration of the Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS) under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. Founded by scientist K Ullas Karanth, Bengaluru-based CWS faced "suspension" of registration under the FCRA on March 5, 2021. This suspension was extended and later turned into a cancellation of registration on September 4, 2023, following a show-cause notice issued by MHA on December 3, 2021.

CWS contested the cancellation, arguing that it lacked justification and that Karanth, son of Jnanpith laureate late K Shivaram Karanth, was not granted a personal hearing as mandated under Section 14(2) of the FCRA. The MHA countered it, contending that personal hearings were not required before cancelling a registration.

Justice M Nagaprasanna of the Karnataka High Court noted that while Section 14(2) allows for the cancellation of registration, Section 14(3) prevents the entity from re-registering for three years. "The words depicted in the Act 'reasonable opportunity of being heard' cannot be restricted to the issuance of a show cause notice, but a personal hearing in the peculiar facts of the case owing to the peculiarity of sub-section (3) of Section 14 of the Act must have been afforded to the petitioner," the judge said in a recent order.

The court observed that the non-affordance of a personal hearing for the petitioner has rendered the order unsustainable, thus leading to its obliteration. "Let there be no confusion that there can always be a fusion between hearing and personal hearing," the judge said. — PTI

Bumpy rides continue at Kumara Krupa Road

Commuters, especially two-wheeler riders, complain of inconveniences, pothole dangers; they demand authorities concerned take on systematic repairs

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Citizens are devastated by the condition of Kumara Krupa Main Road, one of the city's prestigious roads, which has been in a state of disrepair for the last four months. The road is riddled with potholes, causing significant inconvenience and danger to motorists. The situation worsened after the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) installed pipes for utilities, leading to further road collapse due to the lack of systematic repairs. From Kumara Park Guest House to Shivananda Circle, the road is a daily hazard for two-wheeler drivers, who often fall into the potholes and sustain injuries. "I've seen people break their hands and feet due to the potholes. It's a nightmare to drive on this road, especially for those on two-wheelers," said Rajesh, a local resident.

The road's narrowness, combined with two-way traffic and the frequent passage of heavy vehicles such as buses, exacerbates the problem. Small cars and two-wheelers struggle to navigate the damaged road, creating a significant risk of accidents. "Driving on this road has become a big problem. The buses rush past, and there's no space to manoeuvre safely," said S Sivaprasad, a regular commuter.

The poor condition of Kumara Krupa Road, often referred to as "Yamaloka Street" due to its hazardous nature, has sparked outrage among residents. "It is indeed unfortunate that such a prestigious road is in such a state," commented Suresh, another resident. "The authorities need to take immediate action to prevent further accidents and injuries." Residents are calling on the concerned BWSSB authorities to take immediate and appropriate measures to repair the road and address the situation without further delay.

The condition of the Kumara Krupa Main Road; with multiple potholes on the narrow roads, it has become dangerous to motorists

> **"I've seen people break their hands and feet due to potholes. It's a nightmare to drive on this road, especially for those on two-wheelers** – Rajesh, a local resident

"The concerned authorities should repair Kumara Krupa East Road, which has become a road to Mirthyu Loka," said Ravi, a civic activist. "Timely and proper repairs can prevent the impending dangers," he added. Speaking on the issue, Meera, a local shop owner, said, "We need proper repairs to ensure the safety of everyone who uses this road. It's not just about convenience; it's about preventing serious accidents."

The state of Kumara Krupa Main Road is a stark reminder of the need for regular maintenance and timely repairs to ensure the safety of all road users. The local community hopes that their voices will be heard and that the road will soon be restored to a safe and navigable condition.

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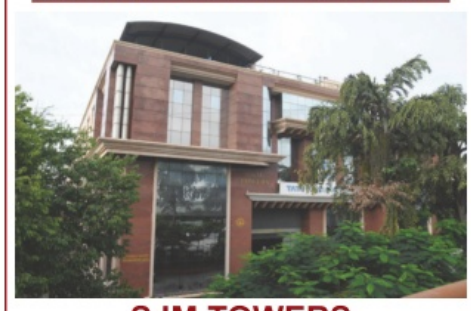

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I, SHALINI SUBRAMANYA RAJAGOPAL MUDALIAR, D/O R Subramanya Residing at No 1519, South End 'B' Road, 26th Main, 9th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore-560069, Have changed My name to SHALINI R S vide affidavit dtd 27/06/2024 before Notary D.K. Rameshappa Bangalore

I, Venkatagiri Deepthi, D/O Chandra Sekhar Rayachoti, Sumadhura LNR Lake Breeze apartment, Siddapura, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560066 has changed my name to Rayachoti Deepthi for all future purposes.

I Sulochana Kalmane Shankaranarana Bhatta W/o Gangadhar Ganapathi Hegde R/at # 20/1, Heepanalli, Sirsi, Uttara Kannada-581403 have changed my name to Sulochana Gangadhar Hegde for all purposes

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Excited to have this opportunity: Srihari Nataraj on Paris Olympics qualification

Ahead of the Paris Olympics 2024, Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj expressed his feelings on Friday after being qualified for the much-awaited marquee event

Srihari Nataraj along with 14-year-old Dhinidhi Desinghu will be representing the Indian tricolour at the upcoming Paris Olympics starting from July 26 onwards, announced the Swimming Federation of India (SFI).

"It is really exciting to have the opportunity to go back to the Olympics. It is something we have been working on for the past few years. It would have been able to qualify with the qualifying time, but it is what it is," Nataraj told ANI.

The 23-year-old spoke about the support he has got during his journey. He thanked TOPS and SAI for being supportive in his journey.

"I have been fortunate to be supported by TOPS. SAI has been supportive as well. Our federation has helped us compete in the best meets worldwide, and get access to sports science. I train in a brilliant facility, with a big pool. I have also been funded by Go Sports, who have been supportive as well. I have had a good amount of support for sure. It is great to see the sport growing," the swimmer added.

The young Indian athlete further spoke about his Tokyo Olympics experience. He stated that he had a brilliant experience out there and met Tennis legend Novak Djokovic and also the Spanish football team. "It was an exciting experience. I had been to some big tournaments before that in swimming, but that was an event where I could meet Djokovic, the Spanish football team. When it came to the racing part, it was just another meeting for me. That is how I approach every race," Nataraj said.

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Cattle obstruct traffic, hinder motorists

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

end the stray cattle menace," said Krishna Kumar Gowda, vice president, Brigade Meadows Plumeria Apartment Owners Association.

Arun Prasad, animal activist, said the BBMP Animal Husbandry Department must construct cattle sheds at each of the wards in the city. "The dairy farmers can use the cattle sheds to keep their cows if the BBMP constructs them. There are some cattle sheds at different locations in the city and these are maintained by the BBMP. This indicates that the BBMP can build cattle sheds at each of the wards," said Arun Prasad.

The BBMP has made arrangements to keep and feed cows at Domlur flyover. Some of the dairy farmers have been using the facility and it prevent cattle from wandering on the streets of Domlur. "The BBMP should and must help dairy farmers by constructing cattle sheds. It will ensure safety of cattle and also avoid traffic jams at areas like

Shivajinagar, Frazer Town, and other localities," said an animal activist.

When informed, BBMP Animal Husbandry Joint Director Dr Rudresh said that he has been taking measures to prevent cattle wandering on the roads. "We have been creating awareness among the dairy farmers and also penalising them for letting cattle on the road. I will send our team to Pulakeshinagar ward to catch stray cattle," said Dr Rudresh.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Animal Husbandry) Suralkar Vikas Kishore said the BBMP has been taking all measures to stop cattle from roaming on the roads.

Dangerous road ahead for child pedestrians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was needed to ensure a safe environment for child pedestrians in the city. The results were shared with multiple government agencies but nothing has changed on ground," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur of ActionAid Association.

Child pedestrians from Vinobha Nagar go to school on two routes. According to surveyors, 86 safety concerns are present on these routes, including BESCOM junction box, broken pavement slabs, protruding and hanging electric wires, non-functional traffic lights, discontinuous footpaths, etc.

The outcome of the survey underlines that the scope for fatal injuries among child pedestrians on these stretches is substantially high. Additionally, the sanitation level is also compromised due to unattended garbage. The risk of electrocution due to hanging electric wires is high as well.

"Barring the first 100 metres of the footpath on JC Road, the rest is in poor condition. While the width of the walkway is less than two feet at some points, it is discontinued at many spots. Haphazardly parked vehicles, loose illegal hoarding, hanging electric wires, and broken pavements are some other aspects that make it dangerous for children using the stretch to commute to school," added Pachhapur.

The first survey conducted between August and December 2023 also analysed the routes and a brief report was then submitted to the Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Commissioner of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Rights of Children, Chief Commissioner of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Managing Director of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM).

The report had found 122 safety concerns. Out of these, 79 included issues such as construction debris, encroachment, broken slabs, poles, garbage, slanted sign boards, and uneven footpath surfaces.

As many as 19 safety concerns were related to loose electric wires and electric junction boxes and 24 concerns were regarding parked vehicles, traffic light poles, non-functional traffic signs, and faded zebra crossings.

It was recommended that wires hanging low on the footpath should be secured, debris should be cleared, encroachments must be evicted and more traffic personnel should be guarding busy junctions such as Minerva Circle to ensure child pedestrians are safe.

The Commissioner of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Rights of Children responded to the report by asking BESCOM to take necessary measures.

However, inadequacies were still found and therefore a follow-up of the previous study was conducted.

HEALTH TIP: Lower abilities of concentration and learning during childhood and teenage could be related to a tripling of risk of having a stroke before turning 50

Removing makeup at nighttime helps minimise eyelid irritation

ALL SWIPED OUT

Ever feel exhausted by swiping through dating apps?

While plenty of happy couples can trace their meet-cute moment to an online dating app, many others find the never-ending process of likes, swipes, taps and awkward DMs that go nowhere to be exhausting — leading to a phenomenon known as "dating app burnout."

That was the case for Marilyn Espitia, a 31-year-old freelance photo editor and photographer in California who first ventured into online dating in college, when she met her former partner and now father of her child on OkCupid.

Today she is single, and has been for about three years. While she's still a "hopeless romantic" who plans to keep using these platforms — primarily Hinge — Espitia says she'll get off an app or pause her profile when it becomes a little too much.

"It starts getting overwhelming," Espitia said.

Licensed clinical psychologist Yasmine Saad says that about 3 out of every 4 people she works with use dating apps, and anywhere between 80 to 90% have expressed feeling similar fatigue or burnout as Espitia at some point.

That's due in part because success is never promised with online dating, regardless of whether you're looking for a lifelong partner or casual fling.

"It's a very difficult process for people because you invest a lot, then you receive little," said Saad, founder and CEO of Madison Park Psychological Services in New York. "It triggers a lot of hopelessness and a lot of self-esteem issues."

Kathryn Coduto, an assistant professor of media science at Boston University who has been studying online dating since 2016, says dating app burnout is probably as old as the apps themselves, noting that people had experienced fatigue with earlier desktop-dominant platforms like eHarmony or Match.com as well.

But these days, burnout may be intensified by the fact there's an app for just about every part of our daily lives, and that constant connectivity can be too much. Pandemic-era "Zoom fatigue" has spilled over into other areas of tech consumption, Coduto said, and online dating isn't immune.

That doesn't mean dating apps are going away anytime soon. Research shows usage has remained relatively stable over recent years.

Pew Research Center said that 3 out of 10 U.S. adults reported ever using an online dating site or app as of July 2022 — identical to the share found in October 2019, months before COVID-19 impacted much of daily life, including dating habits.

While there was some uptick in new user downloads at the start of the pandemic, Coduto's research found more of a spike in usage from those who already had dating apps and were spending more time on them during lockdowns. But those same lockdowns also limited in-person interactions, and the ripple effects are still being felt today.

"The pandemic increased loneliness," Saad said. "But it also boosted the hopelessness ... because even the apps were not meeting the needs of people for socialization."

For Jennifer Stavros, a freelance journalist in Los Angeles, her time in the online dating world has "been a mixed bag." While she's still giving platforms like Tinder, Hinge and OkCupid a try, Stavros notes she's experienced a recent cycle of matches that don't go far.

"I have a conversation ... and it'll go okay. (But) then it will just drop, or it'll just hit a wall somewhere," Stavros, 42, said. "It's not making me feel super hopeful."

Others add that it can also become easy to forget there are people on the other side of those swipes and likes, making them feel dismissed while looking for connections.

"I think that sense of swiping endlessly absolutely plays into burnout," Coduto said. "You're treating people like a card deck because that's what you're looking at."

Yumei He, an assistant professor of management science at Tulane University's Freeman School of Business who has also been studying online dating, said that hurtful experiences — such as being ghosted — can cause users to not trust a platform, or assume all future interactions there will end up the same way, leading them to log off and decide that "dating is important, but my security, my self (worth) is more important."

And of course, burnout doesn't look the same for everyone. Experiences can range widely depending on gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity. Researchers have found that women and gender-queer individuals, for example, are more likely to face harassment than men, while racial and ethnic minorities are often fetishized in online dating spaces, or experience other discrimination resulting from sexual racism.

The trauma of experiencing discrimination and other abuse on a dating app can make it very difficult to stay on a platform or trust it again, Coduto said.

Companies are increasingly navigating ways to address all of this. Hinge, for example, in April launched "Hidden Words," which allows its users to filter out words, phrases and emojis in their incoming likes and comments. A Hinge spokesperson says this feature is aimed at helping vulnerable groups — particularly women, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals — avoid unwanted interactions based on personal preferences.

Gay dating and social networking app Grindr alerts users of potential safety threats in their area, which has been particularly critical for LGBTQ+ people in countries who may face police raids and other dangers, CEO George Arison said in an interview. Users are also able to "surf the grid" on incognito mode, which is typically a paid feature, for free in some locations, he added.

"All Grindr users are under some form of challenges in their lives," Arison said. "Our job has always been to create a safe environment for people to be who they are."

When asked about dating app burnout overall, Arison said "we've not seen any fatigue of Grindr users" but he noted there's growing hunger for innovation.

That's evidenced by the scores of updates that have recently emerged across various dating apps — from a new prompts option on Bumble, which shifts how the platform historically facilitated its "first move," to Tinder's "Matchmaker" feature allowing friends to recommend profiles for each other and Hinge's tests of "your turn limits" to help fend off ghosting.

A handful of popular platforms, including Grindr and Tinder, say they've started integrating artificial intelligence to help identify potential harmful messages and other safety precautions. Some are also looking at AI possibilities such as using the technology to strengthen matching algorithms or offer users' message prompts and date ideas.

"We are just scratching the tip of the iceberg," said Anindya Ghose, Heinz Riehl Chair Professor of technology and marketing at New York University's Stern School of Business, who believes AI could help alleviate burnout but transparency will be key.

Such innovations may be a way to keep people hooked on dating apps. Espitia is among those who say she'd be open to seeing platforms implement further updates — including the use of AI — if it helps improve connections with people around her.

"We're in this new age of finding love," she said. "People really are like starved for love — and I think if that (technology) can help, why not?" —AP

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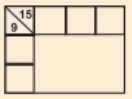
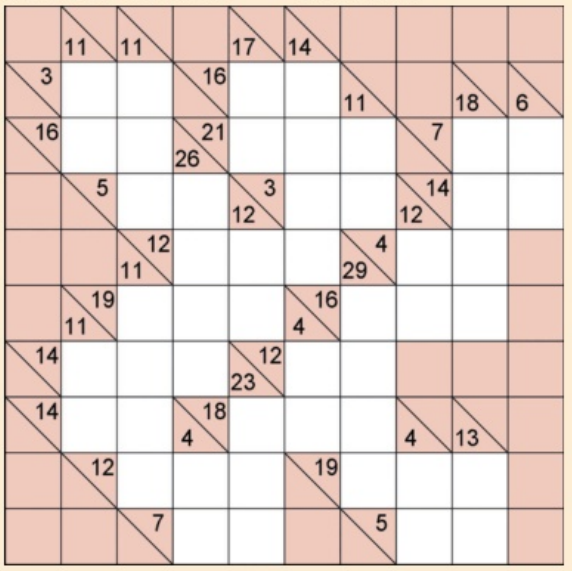
Kakuro

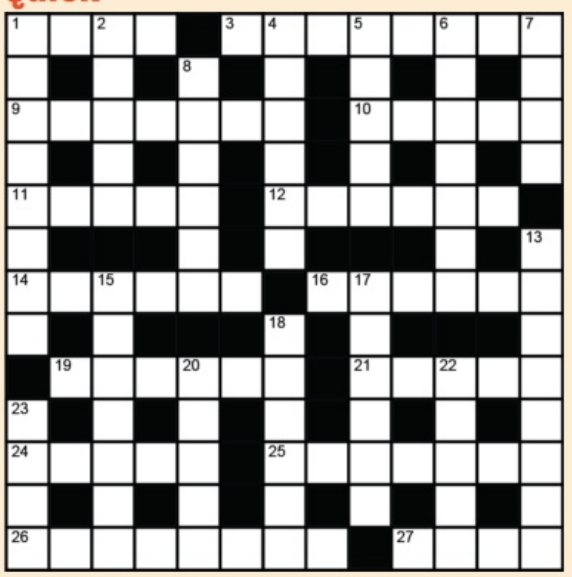
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Neat (4)
3 Was able to spare? (8)
9 Written musically (7)
10 Delicious (5)
11 Wild West carnival (5)
12 Papal ambassador (6)
14 Wept or cried (6)
16 High structures; minars (6)
19 A French cake (6)
21 Cowboy's noose (5)
24 Muse for the poets? (5)
25 Theatre on Varthur Road (7)
26 Adages; axioms (8)
27 Money (4)

DOWN

1 120 dozen? (3,5)
2 Arranged to meet (5)
4 Losing colour, freshness or strength (6)
5 Frequently (5)
6 Disapprove (7)
7 24 hour periods (4)
8 Endeavoured (6)
13 Surprise (8)
15 Display of daring (7)
17 Help or do a favour to (6)
18 The Akali state (6)
20 Summon up (5)
22 Ms Patil or Ms Jaykar of Bollywood (5)
23 Look furtively (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS U

YK GDJQ AIKATFKE WIS XSAD, RI KIQ QDYKZ QDJQ WIS DJUT AIXCJKYIKE: ZKIG QDJQ WIS JFT JPIKT YK QDT GIFPR.

Linemaro

Are you Christmas? Because I want to merry you

Mindchow

Research is the process of going up alleys to see if they are blind

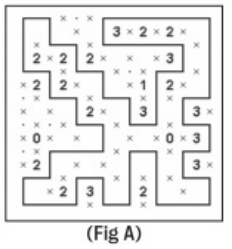
Joke of the day

42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot

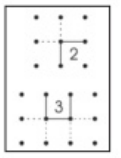
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



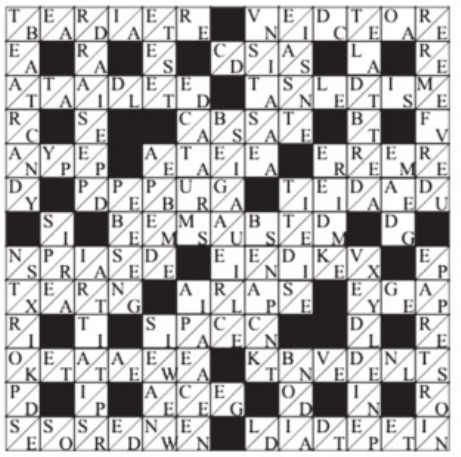
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

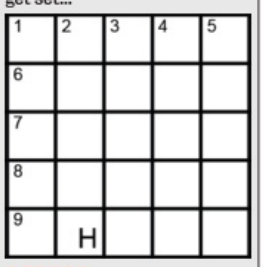
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Carps; 6 Raree;
7 At tug; 8 So ire;
9 Halls

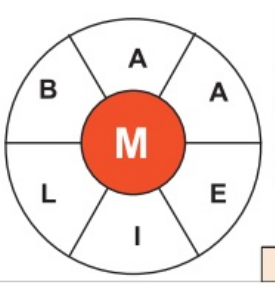
DOWN

1 So gas; 2 Sh cur;
3 Irate; 4 Alter;
5 Paler

Mensapuzzle

Solve this rebus:

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 13 Good; 15 Outstanding

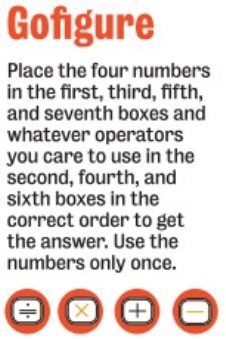
SudokuChallenge

	6			9	1	8	2	
		3						
			5	8	4			3
		2				3	5	
5	3						7	9
	4	6				1		
4			6	5	3			
						6		
	2	1	4	7			3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

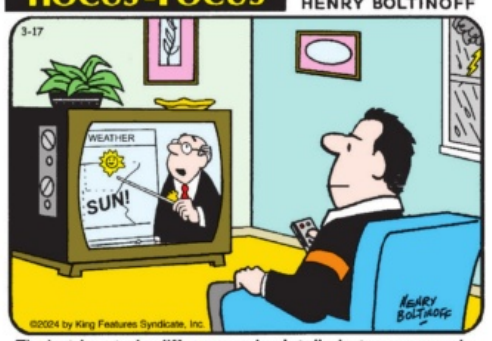
Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

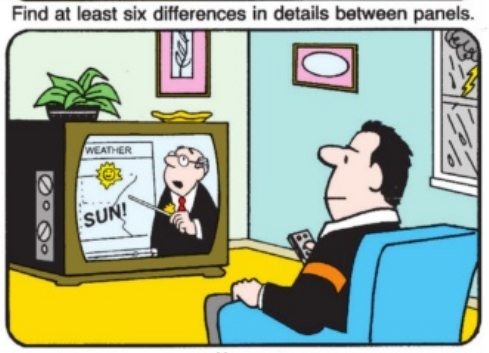


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



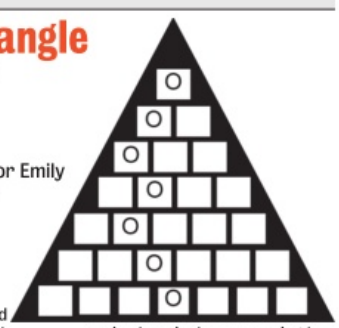
Differences: 1. Picture frame is moved. 2. TV dials are lower. 3. Pointer is shorter. 4. Leaf is missing. 5. Bottom of TV is different. 6. Window is larger.

Riddler

What does this represent?:
3:00–Angry 4:00–Frightened
5:00–Upset 6:00–Joyful <–––

Alpha triangle

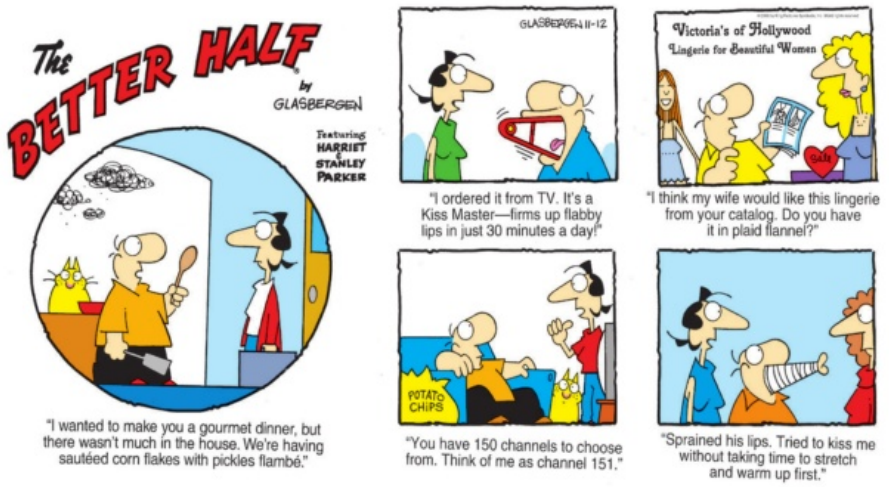
1 Atomic number 8
2 Old boy, abbr
3 Celestial body
4 Nee
5 Carried
6 Anne, Charlotte, or Emily
7 Peerage member

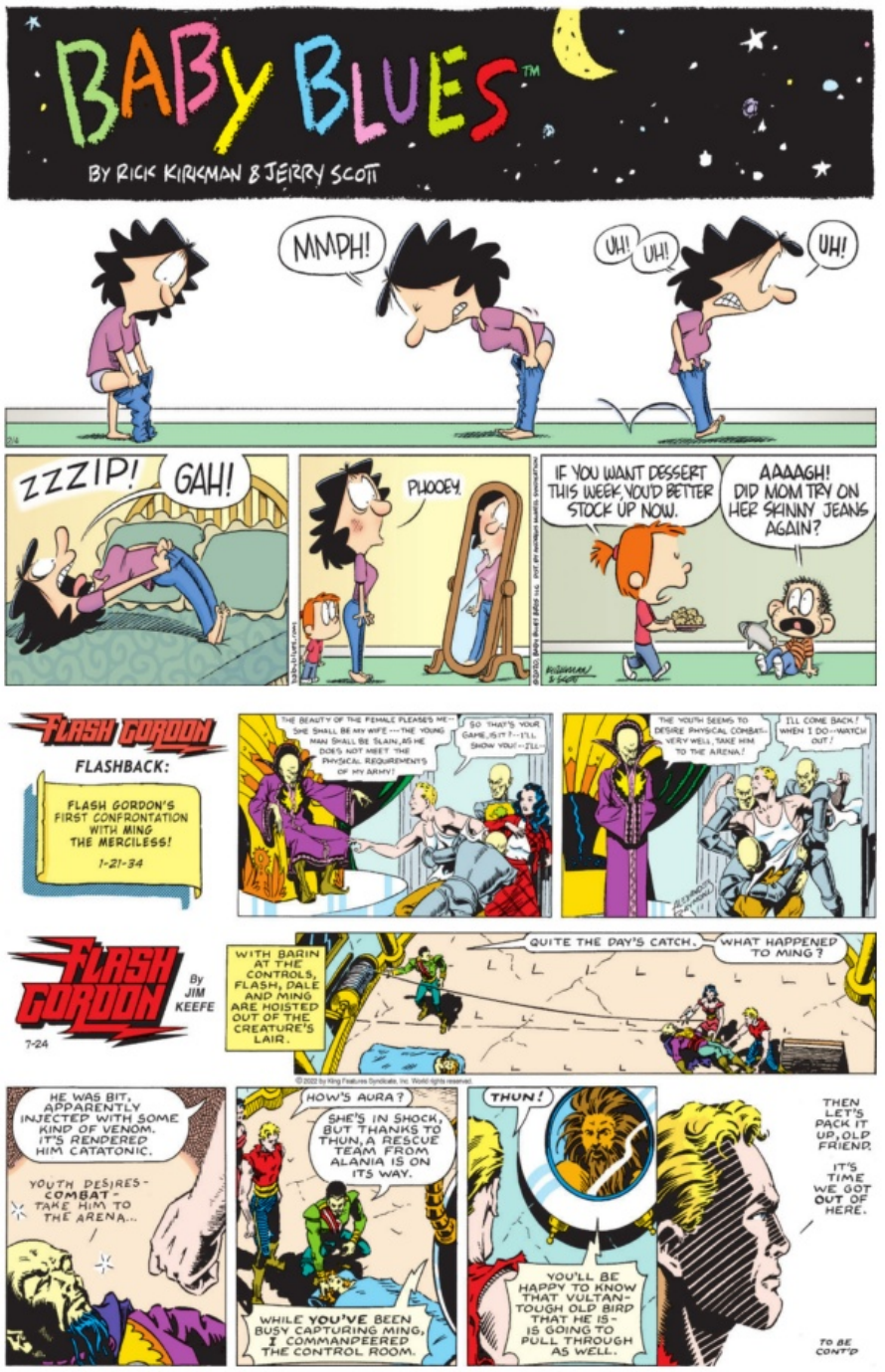


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"I wanted to make you a gourmet dinner, but there wasn't much in the house. We're having sautéed corn flakes with pickles flambé."
GLASBERGEN 11-12
"I ordered it from TV. It's a Kiss Master—firms up flabby lips in just 30 minutes a day!"
"You have 150 channels to choose from. Think of me as channel 151."
Victoria's of Hollywood
Lingerie for Beautiful Women
"I think my wife would like this lingerie from your catalog. Do you have it in plaid flannel?"
"Sprained his lips. Tried to kiss me without taking time to stretch and warm up first."


BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
MMPH!
UH! UH!
UH!
ZZZIP!
GAH!
PHOOEY
IF YOU WANT DESSERT THIS WEEK, YOU'D BETTER STOCK UP NOW.
AAAAGH! DID MOM TRY ON HER SKINNY JEANS AGAIN?
FLASH GORDON
FLASHBACK:
FLASH GORDON'S FIRST CONFRONTATION WITH MING THE MERCILESS!
1-21-34
THE BEAUTY OF THE FEMALE PLEASES ME-- SHE SHALL BE MY WIFE --THE YOUNG MAN SHALL BE SLAIN, AS HE DOES NOT MEET THE PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS OF MY ARMY!
SO THAT'S YOUR GAME, IS IT?--I'LL SHOW YOU!--I'LL--
THE YOUTH SEEMS TO DESIRE PHYSICAL COMBAT--VERY WELL, TAKE HIM TO THE ARENA!
I'LL COME BACK! WHEN I DO--WATCH OUT!
FLASH GORDON
By JIM KEEFE
7-24
WITH BARIN AT THE CONTROLS, FLASH, DALE AND MING ARE HOISTED OUT OF THE CREATURE'S LAIR.
QUITE THE DAY'S CATCH.
WHAT HAPPENED TO MING?
HE WAS BIT, APPARENTLY INJECTED WITH SOME KIND OF VENOM. IT'S RENDERED HIM CATATONIC.
YOUTH DESIRES-- COMBAT-- TAKE HIM TO THE ARENA..
HOW'S AURA?
SHE'S IN SHOCK, BUT THANKS TO THUN, A RESCUE TEAM FROM ALANIA IS ON ITS WAY.
WHILE YOU'VE BEEN BUSY CAPTURING MING, I COMMANDEERED THE CONTROL ROOM.
THUN!
YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT VULTAN-- TOUGH OLD BIRD THAT HE IS-- IS GOING TO PULL THROUGH AS WELL.
THEN LET'S PACK IT UP, OLD FRIEND.
IT'S TIME WE GOT OUT OF HERE.
TO BE CONT'D

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may have control over your opponents and hidden enemies. Decisions in legal matters may come in your favour. Your seniors may be happy because of your hard work and you may get new responsibilities in terms of promotion. Singles may find a soul mate.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be happy. You might consider investing in creative items to enhance your lifestyle, as well as spending on your friends and family members. You may plan to make investments in assets. Singles may have good matches. Love birds may enjoy their important moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be seeking peace of mind. However, the moon's blessings may assist you in focusing yourself. Investments in property and other assets are advised to be avoided. You might experience joyful moments in your home life but should avoid arrogance and ego with your spouse. Disputes with the business partner are likely to be resolved.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you are blessed by the moon, your destiny is likely to be with you. Today you may be more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success. Your subordinates may help you. You are likely to go for short work-related travel. Some good news may come from your sibling. You may plan to renovate your house or office where your creativity will be tested.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. You might find yourself more creative today, utilising this creativity either at the office or at home, potentially boosting your social status. Love birds may likely get some support from their family members and friends for marriage.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, messy situations are now under control. You may feel peace of mind. You may be able to make a proper balance in expenditure and earnings, which may increase your savings. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking, as it may affect your health. Students can start planning for their higher studies. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may face health issues, which may make you impatient. You are advised to control your short temper. You may spend your hard-earned money buying worthless things, it may affect your savings. Couples in love are advised to steer clear of discussions on trivial topics, as they could lead to potential break-ups.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today is a good day. In business, you may acquire new clients, which will aid in profit growth. Singles are likely to find a good match. In domestic life, you must avoid hiding anything from your spouse otherwise it might create some gap between your relationship. Job seekers may likely get a new job, there are chances of promotions in their current job.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today with the help of your strong network you may implement your business plans. You may use your wisdom to gain profits. You may also have harmony in your domestic life, there may be good understanding between you and your spouse. Natives related to metal and booking agents will do better.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are likely to be religious, you may plan to visit a religious place to find peace of mind. You may donate some amount to charity or spiritual places. People around you may get help and support from you, in terms of finance or moral support. You may enjoy every moment with satisfaction and patience.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dull. You are advised to control your short temper. Your focus is frequently tested; strive to avoid distractions from your goals. It is advised not to invest in worthless things. Love birds are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may make new plans in terms of business, your colleagues may be with you to implement your plans. You may recover your stuck money from your clients, which may boost liquidity in the business. Later in the evening, you might experience some sadness, potentially affecting your ability to sleep soundly.

KIDZONE

K Ramya, 8 Years, Ashoka International School

S Tanmayi, 8 Years, The New Cambridge English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(√16) x (4)^1/2
2 x (1 x √4)
2 x (1/2)
2 / 2 = 1

STRIKE OUT

B	E	R	A	T	E	V	E	C	T	O	R			
E	A	E	D	I	A	A	E							
T	A	I	L	E	D	T	S	E	T	S	E			
R	S		A	B	A	T		T		F				
A	P	E		A	T	E	E		R	E	M	E		
Y		D	E	B	U	G		T	I	D	E	D		
	S		B	E	M	U	S	E	D		G			
S	P	I	E	D		I	N	D	E	X		P		
T	A	R	N		A	L	A	S		Y	E	A		
R		I	S	P	E	C			L		R			
O	T	T	A	W	A		K	N	E	E	L	S		
D		I		A	C	E		D		N		O		
E	S	S	E	N	E		L	A	T	E	E	N		

FAST FIVE

S	C	R	A	P
A	R	E	R	E
G	U	T	T	A
O	S	I	E	R
S	H	A	L	L

BULL'S EYE
amble, AMIABLE, balm, beam, blame, lama, lamb, lame, lima, limb, lime, mail, male, meal, mile

QUICK

P	R	O	V	E	R	B	S		C	A	S	H		
E		D		K		A		E		T		S		
E	R	A	T	O		J	A	G	R	I	T	I		
P		V		N		I		M		N				
	G	A	T	E	A	U		L	A	S	S	O		
S		R		P		B				T				
S	O	B	B	E	D		T	O	W	E	R	S		
O		V		G			K		A					
R	O	D	E	O		N	U	N	C	I	O			
G		E		R		I		E		L		S		
N	O	T	A	T	E	D		T	A	S	T	Y		
	E		S		A		F		I		A			
B	E	R	A	T	E	V	E	C	T	O	R			

MENSA PUZZLE
back pack

QUOTE UNCODE
In what concerns you much, do not think that you have companions: know that you are alone in the world.

RIDDLER Happy hour

SUDOKU

7	6	4	3	9	1	8	2	5
8	5	3	2	6	7	9	1	4
2	1	9	5	8	4	7	6	3
1	7	2	9	4	8	3	5	6
5	3	8	1	2	6	4	7	9
9	4	6	7	3	5	1	8	2
4	8	7	6	5	3	2	9	1
3	9	5	8	1	2	6	4	7
6	2	1	4	7	9	5	3	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, 0B, Orb, Born, Borne, Bronte, Baronet.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 - 3 + 4 - 8 = 1
Medium
8 x 5 / 4 + 3 = 13
Hard
8 + 9 - 4 - 9 = 4

LOOP

KAKURO

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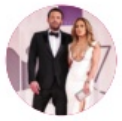

JLo, Ben Affleck 'focused on their separate lives'— Hollywood couple Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck, who are reportedly experiencing a rough patch, are "focused on their separate lives" this summer amid tensions in their marriage

A visual extravaganza

KALKI 2898 AD

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Nag Ashwin
- **ACTORS** Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Deepika Padukone, Dulquer Salmaan
- **Duration** 181 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Director Nag Ashwin, known for handling megaphone for Telugu movies Yevade Subramanyam and Mahanati, has used a mix of mythology and science fiction for this movie. The specialty of Kalki is the number of stars it features from all film industries including Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam and Tamil industries. The director must be appreciated for making it a visual spectacle that matches international standards. It has been released in all languages.

The movie begins with a scene from Kurukshetra where Lord Sri Krishna curses Ashwatthama (Amitabh Bachchan) for supporting the Kauravas. Later the scene shifts to Kasi, the last city to exist, ruled by Commander Manas (Swasta Chatterjee) under the leadership of God King Supreme Yaskin (Kamal Haasan), who lives in a powerhouse known as Complex. Manas and his followers maintain a pregnancy lab where women are kept captive and seeds are planted in the bodies of women and the fertile women are killed. Sumathi (Deepika Padukone) is one among the women kept in the pregnancy lab. Sumathi initially tests negative but becomes pregnant.

At this juncture, a group of people from Shambala makes an attempt to free Sumathi. What happens to Sumathi and who Bhairva is what Kalki 2898 AD is all about.

Though the movie is full of stars and graphics, the director failed to keep the screenplay crisp in the pre-intermission session. A few scenes, especially those of Brahmanandam, are just a drag. The run time of the movie (three hours and one minute) is also a burden on the audiences.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Amitabh Bachchan steals the show with his sterling performance. He has more energy than many of his younger counterparts. His dialogue delivery and gestures are superb. Prabhas fails to impress in the first half but tries his best to entertain audiences in the second half, especially in the climax. Deepika Padukone looks glamorous but has no scope to showcase her acting skills. Actors like Vijay Devarakonda, Mrunal Thakur, and directors Ram Gopal Verma and SS Rajamouli have special cameo appearances in the movie. Kamal Haasan appears thrice on the screen. And we can very well expect a sequel to this movie.

It is worth a watch if you can bear with its run time and if you have a penchant for science fiction.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Dazzling red

Actress Nargis Fakhri treated her fans on Saturday with a motley of pictures, dazzling in a dress in shades of red, which she described as not just a colour but also a "mood."

Nargis took to Instagram and shared a gamut of pictures from a photoshoot, dressed in red.

In the first image, she is seen sitting and smiling at the camera, captioned with a red emoji.

The actress then shared a close-up image of herself, flaunting her perfect skin.

To complete her look, Nargis chose beach waves, natural makeup, and added a hint of gold with earrings.

"Ready to paint the town red," she captioned, adding two smiling emojis. In another close-up picture, she wrote: "Red is not just a colour. It's a mood."

Nargis made her debut in 2011 with the critically acclaimed blockbuster romantic drama 'Rockstar'. She was then seen playing a war correspondent in the political thriller 'Madras Cafe' in 2013. The following year, she worked in commercial hits such as 'Main Tera Hero' and 'Housefull 3'. The 44-year-old actress also starred in a Hollywood spy action comedy film titled 'Spy by Paul Feig', alongside Melissa McCarthy, Jason Statham, Rose Byrne, Jude Law, Miranda Hart, Bobby Cannavale, Peter Serafinowicz, Morena Baccarin, and Allison Janney.

—IANS